

PRESS RELEASE: DSO Entity welcomes the high-level Forum “Future of our Grids” convening on 7 September in Brussels and highlights the role of DSOs as key-enabler of the energy transition

Brussels, 7 September 2023

During the high-level Forum “Future of our Grids: Accelerating Europe’s energy transition”, initiated by the European Commission and organized by ENTSO-E together with DSO Entity as one session partner, light was shed on **the need for the right framework conditions for DSOs (Distribution System operators) and TSOs (Transmission System Operators) as enablers of this energy transition**. In the presence of Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson, high-level stakeholders from the institutions and the sector, the important role of electricity grids in achieving the EU’s energy and climate objectives was highlighted. In four thematic sessions, core topics were discussed, such as the investment challenge, the regulatory framework, increased uncertainty regarding staffing and supply chains as well as permitting and stakeholder engagement. At the end of the conference conclusions from each session were drawn. (<https://www.entsoe.eu/eugridforum/>).

DSO Entity President, Mr. Vincenzo Ranieri, welcomed the timely initiative of the European Commission to put distribution grids at a center stage given their key-role in connecting new renewables and empowering consumers. Mr. Vincenzo Ranieri highlighted that according to estimations around **70% of the installed renewable capacity will be connected to the distribution grid** and stressed the immense investment need of **more than €400 billion until 2030** for distribution grids only. Secretary General, Peter Vermaat, exemplified the challenge by stating that several of DSO Entity’s members recently experienced **a three- to fourfold increase in applications to connect SolarPV** to the distribution grid. Mr Peter Vermaat stressed that this growth can only be facilitated if DSOs have the right investment climate and a regulatory framework that supports DSOs in managing accelerated growth whilst balancing uncertainties, i.e. offers intelligent adaptability.

Together with Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson and the president of ENTSO-E, Mr Zbyněk Boldiš, DSO Entity’s president, Vincenzo Ranieri, delivered the concluding remarks of the Forum. Mr. Vincenzo Ranieri stressed three core points that are needed from a DSO perspective: “First, we need a more **forward-looking, anticipatory investments climate** and a **regulatory framework that manages uncertainties**, whilst **maintaining efficiency** supported by **ear-marked and easier access to EU funding for DSOs**. **Second, a more stable ecosystem for the equipment industry** and coordinated programs for the **(re-)skilling of the DSO workforce**. **And third, a more streamlined approach for grid infrastructure permitting processes** - which are often lengthy and protracted – with an early **involvement of DSOs** in the planning processes of new generation projects.”

Mr. Ranieri highlighted that delivering the green transition is a matter of **cooperation, dialogue and team effort**. The conference should only be seen as starting point for a constructive dialogue between decision-makers at the European and national level, DSOs, TSOs, regulators, institutions, and citizens. “**The clock is ticking but, on behalf of the Entity, I am confident we will be able to use the time left to speed up the transition towards a fair and effective distributed future.**”

About EU DSO Entity

EU DSO Entity is a technical expert body **mandated by the Electricity Market Regulation (2019/943/EU)** to promote the functioning of the electricity market and to facilitate the energy transition. DSO Entity is representing **more than 900 diverse Distribution System Operators (DSOs) connecting 250 million customers to the electricity grid in 27 Member States**. Among DSO Entity's core tasks are the development of technical rules for the electricity system in the form of Network Codes together with the mandated organisation of the Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-E), the facilitation of the integration of renewables and the promotion of the digitalisation and smartening of the grid as well as sharing knowledge and best practices, to name but a few.

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